AUTHENTIC
BIOGRAPHICAL ANECDOTES
OF
JOSEPH GERRALD,
A
DELEGATE
TO THE
BRITISH CONVENTION IN SCOTLAND
FROM THE
LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY,

AND WHO IS NOW ON HIS PASSAGE TO NEW HOLLAND FOR HAVING ACTED IN THAT CAPACITY;

According to the Sentence of the High Court of Juſticiary at EDINBURGH, *March* the 14th, 1794.

WRITTEN BY A FRIEND,
WHO KNEW HIM IN THE YEAR 1765.

Trace the riſing luſtre
From its firſt twilight, ſhining forth at length
To full meridian ſplendor,

ANKENSIDE.

THE SECOND EDITION.

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PREFACE.

IT is natural for the human mind to cheriſh with affection the pleaſing retroſpect of thoſe little friendſhips we have enjoyed in our infancy; to taſte an inexpreſſible enchantment in the converſe of thoſe who have been the companions of our youth; and to feel an extatic glow ruſh on the heart at the recital of thoſe innocent paſtimes, and mutual favours, which once fanned the pure, the ſacred flame of infant love.

Awakened by thoſe reflections will the reader be generouſly prepared to allow, that an attachment formed in infancy, and cheriſhed by a fond remembrance for thirty years with the unfortunate GERRALD, muſt have ſome claim on the feelings of the writer; muſt arouſe the liberal mind to ſympathize with his ſufferings, however they have been occaſioned;—he will, indeed, rarely intrude his ſentiments in a political point of view; he will not endeavour to ſupport the character of his friend beneath the ſpecious veil of falſhood; nor indulge thoſe effuſions of the heart that would lead to an intemperate enquiry into the tendency of thoſe principles, which have reduced that un-

fortunate, yet reſpected, individual, to the condition of a bleeding exile from his relatives and country.

Impreſſed only with thoſe ſentiments which he conceives add dignity to the nature of man, he wiſhes neither to excite the tempeſt of his paſſions, to hurl him beyond the line preſcribed by reaſon and candour; nor will he, ſee with apathy, the private character of a friend inſulted, by thoſe who do not approve of his conduct in public.

He will cautiouſly ſhun the danger of infatuation; nay, ſacrifice friendſhip at the ſhrine of truth; the pen of impartiality ſhall trace the pages of this fragment, though, like the ſhort-lived ephemera, it may enjoy but a tranſient exiſtence, and then be baniſhed into eternal obſcurity.

The few, feeble, and contradictory accounts which have recently been uſhered before the public of this man, have given birth to a variety of improper ſuggeſtions, which the preſent biographical ſketch may poſſibly diſpel; if the facts are few, they poſſeſs all the ſimplicity of truth;—they are ſuch as have occurred to the obſervation of a friend, who, from the earlieſt ſtage of his infancy, and by an intimate connection with his family, has had the beſt opportunity of tracing the progreſs of theſe endowments which have raiſed him to the ſummit of literary eminence, and drawn commiſe-

ration

ration from the Man, and the Philoſopher, in the midſt of his misfortunes.

Under thoſe circumſtances the writer ſubmits his biographical ſketch to an intelligent world.—May it be as acceptable to the Man who regards ſuch ſufferings as the ſtruggles of virtue for the renovation of our country; as to him adown whoſe penſive cheek the tear of ſympathy ſteals in ſilence; who deplores the event which has ultimately ſhed its baneful influence over the meridian ſplendour of a genius ſo enlightened.

AUTHENTIC

BIOGRAPHICAL ANECDOTES

OF

JOSEPH GERRALD.

JOSEPH GERRALD, Eſq. the father of this unfortunate man, was of a wealthy and reſpectable family in Ireland; he was a native of that country, but went over to the Weſt Indies, and ſettling there, became proprietor of ſome valuable plantations: at an early age he married a lady in one of the ſettlements, by whom he had two daughters; one, or both of them, are now living.

His wife dying three or four years after, Miſs Ann Rogers, a young lady from England, attended him to the hymeneal altar: by her he had only this ſon: he was born in the iſland of St. Chriſtopher, on the 9th of February, 1763, and was chriſtened after his father, Joſeph.

The health of Mrs. Gerrald being much impaired by the heat of the climate, Mr. Gerrald determined ſoon after to come to England with her

and his ſon; but as he did not intend to reſide long in this country, he left his daughters to the care of his friends in the iſland.

It has been erroneouſly ſtated, by ſome, that "Joſeph Gerrald is a native of Warwickſhire;" and by others, that "Dr. Samuel Parr had the honour of receiving him under his hoſpitable roof immediately on his arrival in England;" but thoſe are obſervations entirely ariſing from conjecture, and were calculated only to gratify the curioſity of thoſe who were eager to learn the origin of ſuch a diſtinguiſhed advocate in the cauſe of Freedom: it muſt indeed be obſerved, that Mr. Gerrald was unwilling to afford a clue that would lead to expoſe thoſe little failings, thoſe ſallies of youthful levity, which vacant minds would regard as the beſt criterion of their greatneſs, but from the recollection of which he would always turn with confuſion.

The truth is, when Mr. Gerrald arrived in England with his family, his ſon was only two years old; they haſtened to London, and took lodgings in Great George, (or Charles,) ſtreet, Hanover-ſquare, and a few weeks after removed to Meſſrs. Crudge and Arcle, lace-dealers, the corner of St. Swithin's-lane, Lombard-ſtreet.

Mrs Gerrald, far from receiving any benefit from the change of climate, continued to languiſh under a viſible decline for a ſhort time, and then paid the debt of nature.

A long

A long acquaintance between Mrs Crudge and Mrs Gerrald, when children, and at ſchool, cemented the bond of friendſhip between them; and when the latter returned to England in ſickneſs, the viſits of Mrs Crudge were frequent. When Mrs Gerrald was on her death bed, ſhe entreated her friend to beſtow that regard ſhe had ſo often manifeſted for her, on her little offſpring; promiſes were ſuperfluous, a guſh of tears beſpoke moſt forcibly—her feelings—her intentions; ſhe embraced her friend, who was at that moment emerging from this tranſient ſcene—her parting breath ratified the charge, and ſhe became the foſter mother of the Infant Gerrald.

Young Gerrald, after living with Mrs. Crudge three or four years, was ſent to the boarding ſchool of Mr. Allen, at Hammerſmith, where he remained till he was about eleven years old; in this ſeminary he acquired no ſmall ſhare of credit for his ingenuity, and though he would always indulge in the paſtimes common to youth, he was ever attentive to thoſe ſtudies which it appears were at a future period to ſhine ſo eminently in his public character.

As many of his relations, who reſided in London, were opulent Weſt Indian planters, it may be ſuppoſed that young Gerrald was uſhered at an early age (during the vacations from ſchool) among the higher ranks of ſociety; and was not

leſs beloved than admired by thoſe who could trace in his juvenile productions the effuſions of a brillant imagination; he always evinced an accuteneſs and perſpicuity of mind far above the ordinary capacities of children of his age; the following anecdote which occurred when he was about five years old, will in ſome meaſure exemplify the truth of this obſervation.

Being one day on a viſit to his friends, a biſhop,* who was one of the company, took particular notice of him, and after aſking him ſeveral queſtions, begged to know his name. My Lord (replied Gerrald), my great grand-father was an Iriſhman, he always wrote his name Fitz-Gerrald; but my grand-father and my father thought it would be better to leave the *Fitz* out, and I think ſo too, pleaſe your Lordſhip.

Mr. Gerrald (the father) having loſt his ſecond wife, abandoned himſelf to ſuch a career of extravagance in England, that it became neceſſary, in the courſe of two or three years, to return to the Weſt Indies, and endeavour to arrange thoſe affairs, he had ſo much deranged by his improper conduct; with this view he quitted England, leaving his ſon under the care of his former friends, and intending to ſend for him when his affairs were

* Either the Biſhop of St. Aſaph, St. Albans, or St. Davids; the diſtance of time precludes our ſpeaking with certainty.

ſettled

ſettled; or when he had finiſhed his education in this country.

Before, however, that deſirable event could be accompliſhed, the father died, and this was the firſt ſource of thoſe misfortunes which have invariably purſued him through life; he was twelve years old when letters from the Weſt Indies announced to him the death of his father, and the deranged ſtate of his fortune; but his friends, on whoſe promiſes he relied, aſſured him, all encumbrances ſhould be paid off during his minority, and leave him in poſſeſſion of an ample fortune when he became of age to enjoy it.

His two uncles, Mr. Collins and Mr. Ward, both by his mother's ſide (and who now reſide at the weſt end of the town), then became his guardians; he was removed from the boarding ſchool at Hammerſmith, and placed under the care of that preceptor whom he has ſeveral times mentioned with ſuch ardent profeſſions of eſteem—Dr. Samuel Parr, of Stanmore, Middleſex.

During the firſt ſixteen years of his life, the biographer can with difficulty ſelect thoſe incidents which may beſt deſerve attention, his time being ſpent, between his ſcholaſtic ſtudies; in viſits to his friends; and not unfrequently indulging in thoſe frailties to which youth are commonly addicted: he was, however, the pride of his preceptor, and the admiration

admiration of his fellow-ſcholars: he ſtudied Latin and French with conſiderable ſucceſs; acquired ſome knowledge of the Greek language, and profitted by the occaſional inſtructions of different maſters in the uſeful as well as polite accompliſhments. Nor muſt we here omit to mention a friend of his (Mr. Bennet), whoſe private inſtruction, both in leterature and religion, Mr. Gerrald has ever retained a grateful remembrance of. To the ſtudy of geography he was particularly attached; and he poſſeſſed great taſte for drawing.

Dr. Parr always expreſſed the higheſt praiſe for Gerrald, and conſidered him as a moſt accompliſhed ſcholar. At his ſeminary he formed an intimacy with ſeveral men, who has ſince been eſteemed among the brighteſt ornaments of the Britiſh ſenate. Mr. Sheridan acquired a knowledge of him through this medium; and before his departure from England, which happened about the ſeventeenth year of his age, he had the honour of being ſeveral times in company with Mr. Pitt—now prime miniſter.

His affairs not being finally ſettled when he arrived in the Weſt Indies, he could only take poſſeſſion of part of his eſtate. He ſoon after married a lady of the connection or name of Brothers (a family well known in the iſland of St. Chriſtopher), without aſking the advice of his friends:

by

by her he had two children, a ſon and daughter.*

Here would we willingly caſt a veil over the folly of a man we have often ſo much reaſon to admire, but truth impels; left to a free enjoyment of a conſiderable property, which in diſcreter hands would have procured the bleſſings, or at leaſt the comforts of life, for himſelf and his offspring, his extravagance was ſcarcely limitted, it encreaſed as his property diminiſhed: he too late diſcovered, that from a ſtate of opulence, he was reduced to narrow circumſtances; and the man, on whoſe integrity his chief reſource then depended, threw his claims into chancery, to compleat his ruin.

It was perhaps, from the ſeries of misfortunes which followed his imprudence, that he learnt to pity the ſufferings of thoſe human beings, whom poverty has degraded in the ſight of the great; for after having enjoyed that range to his pleaſures, which property will ever command, he felt more keenly the anguiſh of diſtreſs—perhaps too, it was then that he, for the firſt time, recalled thoſe religious duties to his mind, which were ſo early inculcated by Dr. Parr, and his friend, Mr. Bennet.

Taught prudence by neceſſity, he gathered up the remains of his fortune, and went over to America; he reſided in that country ſeveral years, and

* They are both living, and in England at this time; their mother died in the Weſt Indies.

enjoyed

enjoyed with them that hoſpitality and freedom which he ſo elegantly and pathetically depictures in his Britiſh Convention.

" In America, that happy land of freedom, and " an equality of rights, the blood of man is never " ſhed to ſatiate the cruelty of crowned heads". Page 74.

" In America, that country which God and man " have concurred to render the bliſsful habitation of " abundance and peace, the poor are not broken " down by taxes to ſupport the expenſive trap- " pings of royalty, or to pamper the luxury of an " inſolent nobility. No lordly peer tramples " down the corn of the huſbandman; no proud pre- " late wrings from him, the tythes of his induſtry. " They have no chicanery in ermine, nor hypo- " criſy in lawn." Page 75.

" This is not the gaudy picture of a diſtempered " imagination, but the real repreſentation of things " which are. Many years have I reſided in that " country, and have ſeen and felt the bleſſings which " I deſcribe.*" Page 76.

Encouraged by a happy proſpect which opened

* He ſpeaks with more preciſion in his defence, concerning his reſidence in America. " I myſelf reſided, during four " years, in a country where every man, who paid taxes, had a " right to vote; I mean the commonwealth of Pennſylvania. " I was an eye witneſs of many elections which took place in " Philadelphia, the capital of the State, &c." *Vide Defence,*

to his mind, from a private circumſtance, he looked forward with confidence to the moment when by a legal courſe, the property he had been deprived of, ſhould be reſtored; he quitted America, and returned to England early in the year 1788; he made a tour through ſeveral of the principal parts of the country; and when he arrived in London, took lodgings in Furnival's Inn, Holborn; he removed ſhortly afterwards to Southampton Buildings; and then took apartments at No. 40, Swallow ſtreet, the corner of Maddox ſtreet, Hanover Square.

The viciſſitudes of fortune and climate to which he had been expoſed, during his travels in the Weſt Indies, America, and other countries, are well deſcribed in his own words: "I have" (ſays he in a letter, which was ſent ſoon after his arrival in this country to the writer of the ſketch), "been "expoſed to a great variety of climates and no "ſmall ſhare of adverſity, ſince I quitted England; "my conſtitution is a good deal ſhattered, and my "health impaired. I am however gradually re-"covering."

We have now arrived at the period in which the political concerns of this country appear for the firſt time to have engaged the attention of Mr. Gerrald; we will not preſume to determine the motives which originally induced him to purſue his patriotic exertions; it will be ſufficient for us to mention one or two particular circumſtances which

which have fallen under our obſervation, and may ſerve to reflect ſome light on a ſubject ſo intricate.

As he was naturally of a benevolent diſpoſition, he muſt certainly feel himſelf an admirer of that ſyſtem of politics, which was beſt calculated for diſpenſing happineſs and proſperity, among the induſtrious orders of ſociety; he had long reſided in a country where he had ſeen that deſcription of men enjoy in tranquility the fruits of their labour, and was perhaps, therefore led to conſider with ſome warmth, the ſituation of the lower orders in England—we may be warranted in this ſuppoſition, by obſerving the honeſt zeal with which he ſpeaks of the Republic of America.

The moment in which he arrived in this country was ſo peculiarly critical, as to the poſture of political affairs, and is ſo freſh in memory, that we need only ſay, it was during the agitation of the regency bill in 1788. Several gentlemen (in what is termed the oppoſition) with whom he was acquainted before he went to the Weſt Indies, revived their former intimacy with him; and though he had laboured for ſome time under a ſevere indiſpoſition, his mind was buſied about the change which was then expected to have taken place in the miniſtry.

He wrote ſeveral letters on the ſubject (probably at the requeſt of Mr. Sheridan, or ſome of his friends); they were printed and publiſhed by Mr.

Mr. Debrett, Bookſeller, Piccadilly; though few, if any, appeared with his name; nor was it known, except within a ſmall circle of his moſt intimate friends, that thoſe letters were written by him.

Some among thoſe, who have known Mr. Gerrald only ſince he appeared the avowed advocate for a parliamentary reform, will, perhaps attribute his conduct to ambition; we will not deny that he poſſeſſed ſome emulation to diſplay his abilities in that cauſe, but muſt conclude his perſeverance aroſe from better motives. A very ſhort time previous to the moment in which he appeared in a public capacity, he laboured under a ſevere illneſs, and ſincerely wiſhed he could have exchanged his ſituation in the buſy ſcenes of life, for the retirement of the philoſopher. Ambition could ſcarcely have been the moſt powerful aſcendant in the breaſt of a man, who thus expreſſed his ſentiments to his friend.*

" The Doctor ſays, as ſoon as I can I muſt go " into the country—to Bath—it is too noiſy and " full of company for a ſick man; as for its amuſe- " ments, they can have no charms for one who is " now in the meridian of life, and whoſe conſtitu- " tion has been ſo ſhattered by continued ſickneſs " and anxiety, that he will incur a premature old " age, and in a ſhort time may be numbered among

* The following is an extract of a letter which was ſent by Mr. G. to the writer of this ſketch, during his illneſs.

" the

" the ſilent dead. I think therefore of writing to " our old friend Captain J—— M——.* to requeſt " he would take a ſingle apartment for me at " Walton on Thames, in a ſober retired family. " *February 5th*, 1789."

The ſolicitations of ſome patriotic friends, aided by an irreſiſtable inclination to promote the happineſs of his fellow-countrymen, induced him to lay aſide his intentions; he became a member of the Conſtitutional Society, and afterwards of the London Correſponding Society; of the latter it is ſuperfluous to ſay, he was an active member, and was choſen in conjunction with MAURICE MARGAROT, a delegate to the Britiſh Convention in Scotland. The writer has already premiſed, that he will not enquire into the political conduct of Mr. G. nor were it his intention, could he do it from his own knowledge, never having been acquainted with a ſingle individual of that ſociety, except his friend; he will wave therefore every circumſtance, except thoſe which cannot be controverted.

It is well known that MAURICE MARGAROT, MUIR, PALMER, and SKIRVING, had been tried,

* The gentleman alluded to is at this moment in the navy. This brave veteran officer, who has been in the ſervice for the laſt thirty years, is a worthy and generous individual; and would perhaps be ready to avow his friendſhip for Mr. Gerald, even under his preſent ſufferings:—but as we have not his permiſſion, we ſhall not diſcloſe his name at length.

and

and condemned for tranſportation in Scotland, while GERRALD was at large on bail in this country. Their fate, did not, however, check the ardour of his mind, nor ſwerve him from that line of conduct which he purſued from a conſciouſneſs of being right: his friends could not but foreſee the inevitable conſequence of his appearing on trial, and Mr. HORNE TOOKE offered to pay the ſum for which he was held to bail; but GERRALD diſdained to deſert the cauſe of Freedom;—he went, a willing ſacrifice to the *laws* of *that part* of Great Britain which lies *beyond* the TWEED!

After his trial, he was confined in the Tolbooth before he was ſent to England. During his confinement, many members of the ſociety in Scotland had acceſs to him; and among thoſe WATT, who has been ſince executed for high-treaſon;—it has been ſaid that this man, who in their turn had deceived his countrymen, and the miniſters, had attempted to perſuade Mr. Gerrald to effect his eſcape—moſt certainly to betray him; but he found him determined rather to periſh, than deſert the cauſe he had ſo nobly eſpouſed. When he arrived in England, he was lodged in the ſtate ſide of Newgate, in March 1794, there he remained till the month of October; he was then removed to the New Compter, in Gilt-ſpur-ſtreet, previous to the trials of the ſtate priſoners, HARDY, TOOKE, and THELWALL.

In juſtice to the abilities of this unfortunate man, the writer muſt confeſs himſelf incompetent to trace a faithful outline of his mind, and will therefore only render to his memory that tribute, which his ſevereſt enemies have to his underſtanding. His Britiſh Convention is already recorded in the annals of fame; it will ever remain a monument of his literary capacity; and may receive from future ages a better compliment for the benevolence it breathes, than that ſo proudly beſtowed on its elegance in the eighteenth century.

In private life, his ſentiments were uſually expreſſed in a pleaſing, ſometimes brilliant, but always unaffected manner; and when the diſcuſſion of any favourite topic called forth the energies of his mind, the acuteneſs of his reaſoning ſeldom failed to convince, the perſuaſive power of his eloquence never, to charm. Of the ſeverity of his invective thoſe can beſt judge who have wickedly provoked it.

If his abilities deſerve our praiſe, his courage muſt claim our admiration; and his virtuous integrity our reſpect: for granting that he was really a miſtaken individual, and that the hearts of men were not ſo inclined to the practice of virtue, as to uſe with diſcretion and juſtice the bleſſings he wiſhed them to obtain, it only proved that he held a better opinion of mankind than they deſerve; which is a ſentiment ſo noble, ſo replete with generoſity

roſity and benevolence, that it cannot ſurely be made the ground-work of criminality.

What but a conſciouſneſs of the rectitude of his intentions could induce him to appear before the tribunal to plead the cauſe of freedom; what other than the moſt generous motives could inſpire in his boſom that ardent zeal which he diſplayed in the defence of himſelf and his countrymen; when his ſoul expanded in their cauſe, the pompous ſolemnity of a court carried no diſmay to his mind; his boſom caught the ſeraphic fire, and he dared to vindicate the privileges aſſigned by ETERNAL OMNIPOTENCE TO MAN!*

In the early part of life Mr. Gerrald was very whimſical, or foppiſh, in his dreſs; but during his confinement in Newgate he degenerated into a ſloven; his magnanimity never forſook him, and though he appeared abſorbed in melancholy when alone, the viſit of a friend would always afford a

* "You are called upon to decide whether man, who is by "his nature ſocial and rational, ſhall meet in ſociety for the "purpoſe of improving his faculties, and exerciſing thoſe "powers of reaſon which the common Father of us all has "given us, to enlighten our underſtandings and enoble our "hearts; or, whether by relinquiſhing every thing that is "virtuous, every thing that is praiſe-worthy, every thing that "is valuable, in the condition of our humanity, we ſhall be "reduced to a ſituation beneath the beaſts that periſh."

Gerrald's Defence.

temporary relief. He had entertained ſome hope that he would not have been ſent out of the country;†—hard indeed the reward for *ill-timed* patriotiſm to linger in a jail for life, and conſider that a favour too.—His companion, during the latter part of his confinement, was an infant daughter, whoſe prattle ſerved to amuſe the tedious moments, whoſe ſmiles alone could cheer the clouded brow of an affectionate parent, and make even the horrors of a dungeon ſupportable.

Every thinking man, however he differ in opinion on politics, will certainly allow, that a ſimilar crime demands a ſimilar puniſhment; and that if it is right to *acquit* one man with honour on any charge, he cannot agree, that to *condemn* him for the ſame can be right alſo; and therefore, though the vindictive torch was conſigned to the hands of miniſters, could we expect they would have wreaked their only vengeance on the head of a ſolitary individual after the triumph innocence had obtained at the Old Bailey. But they were determined rather to deter by terror than conciliate by affection.—In vain would he have appealed to their humanity—in vain tell them in his guilt was involved theirs;

† Mr. Dundas had told a perſon of conſequence in oppoſition, "There is no intention of ſending Mr. Gerrald at preſent; and, if it depend on me, he will not be ſent."—*See Morning Chronicle.*

for

for humanity has been long ſince baniſhed from their boſoms, and remorſe holds no empire there. They have fulfilled the ſentence; and to their eternal diſgrace they have aggravated it, too much by premeditated cruelty to admit of any palliative —and the ferocious minions of their vengeance, in perfect obedience to their maſters, is empowered to refuſe the parting embrace of an infant offspring and an exiled father!—Humanity recoils at the deed;—be it recorded in the heart of every Engliſhman, that the lenity which would be ſhewn to the murderer at the foot of the gibbet was refuſed to him—yes, to the murderer, whoſe blood was a few moments after to be offered as a reparation to injured ſociety, and to appeaſe the wrath of an inſulted God!

The cataſtrophe which has finally cloſed the ſcene is already before the world, and every man will judge of it as beſt accords with the bias of his mind. Let us ſoar above the paltry conſiderations of his being attached to one party, or in oppoſition to another; let us diveſt ourſelves of theſe prejudices in his favour which hover round the heart; and regard him as an individual, whoſe public conduct we alone can judge of. With him concentrated the refined reaſoning of the philoſopher, and the tranſcendant eloquence of the orator; and the fortitude of a Roman, may be traced throughout his conduct.

It may appear romantic to attribute to this man ſuch a happy combination af talents and virtue, but whoever will peruſe his writings, will ſcarcely diſpute either. The Lord Juſtice Clerk did not heſitate to ſay, that "he had eloquence enough to perſuade the people of Scotland to riſe in arms:" and the Solicitor General paid him ſeveral ſimilar compliments *.

To the moment of his departure, he evinced the inflexible heroiſm of a Cato; ſave only when the tender ties of parental affection were unexpectedly torn aſunder; when the jailors refuſed to let him take a long, perhaps laſt, farewel of the infant companion of his captivity †; then his reſolution, for a moment,

* "The Solicitor General, indeed, during the courſe of "this trial, has diſtinguiſhed me by a marked and particular "compliment; but it was coupled with a charge that if I am "guilty, muſt render me doubly ſo; that my efforts were ex-"erted to diſturb the peace of my country. No, Gentlemen, "whatever portion of talents, God has thought proper to con-"fer upon me, has never yet been proſtituted to ſo infamous a "purpoſe; and I turn with horror from a compliment to my "underſtanding, which can only be purchaſed by the extinc-"tion of every generous ſentiment of heart, and the ſacrifice "of all things that are held ſacred among men."—*Vide Gerrald's Defence.*

† This circumſtance is thus minutely detailed by one who was on the ſpot, when he was taken away. "On Saturday, "the 2d of May, 1795, about three o'clock in the afternoon, "juſt

moment, forſook him, and the heart-felt ſigh betrayed the conflict of his boſom.

Departed energy of Britain! have you deſerted us for ever!—you once inſpired the infant boſom with courage to revenge its country's wrongs; you taught the youthful ſoldier to burſt the ſhackles of ſlavery; and warmed the heart of the hoary-headed Sire to earn new laurels in the cauſe of freedom;—you taught a Sydney, a Hampden, to bleed; and future generations to revere them; will you then in ſilence behold your bleeding advocate doomed to miſery; to periſh in a dungeon, or expire in his chains on the fartheſt extremes of the ſouthern ocean;—forbid it heaven! the yet unextinguiſhed generoſity of a Briton muſt forbid it too.

Let me aſk—is it obliterated from the tablet of your memory, that there was a moment in which

" juſt as he had laid down to repoſe himſelf, being much indiſ-
" poſed, he was informed that Pitt the turnkey of Newgate
" wanted to ſpeak to him, upon which he aroſe and went in-
" to the lobby of the priſon, when they immediately ſeized
" him, and put him in irons, hand-cuffing him, and ſhackling
" his legs: In this ſituation he was not even permitted to return
" to his apartment to take leave of his infant daughter, who was
" the companion of his impriſonment, but inſtantly hurried in-
" to a poſt chaiſe with Pitt the turnkey, and conveyed to
" Goſport, where he was put on board the Sovereign tranſport
" for Botany Bay."

the

the oppreſſors of this man profeſſed the very principles they now perſecute; when,

" Glorious PITT ſupported every claim;
" When PULTNEY roſe to aſſert the injured laws,
" And WYNDHAM agreed in his country's cauſe." *

But the ſunſhine of a court has matured the grubs to the taudry butterflies of a day. They were chamelions who have changed the fair colour of freedom's veſtment to partake of the regal purple; the price of their apoſtacy was—ROYAL FAVOUR!

The inſincerity of thoſe ephemereal patriots (to ſpeak without reſentment) needs not our comment; for the very men who act with them muſt ſecretly deſpiſe the baſe proſtitution of their principles, and conclude, as they have excited by their former conduct, the enthuſiaſm they now in vain attempt to ſmother, for their private emolument; they may as readily deſert the cauſe they now ſupport, as that which they before profeſſed;—not ſo the honeſt, though perhaps, miſtaken zeal of our ſuf-

* " And when we can ſtill boaſt ſome honeſt names whom
" *no* TYRANTS can drive from their country's glorious cauſe,
" among the foremoſt are, *Shelburn, Portland, Richmond, Stan-*
" *hope* §, &c. &c.——*Vide Picture of thoſe Men when in oppoſition a very few years ſince.*

§ Except this man from ſuch company.

fering

fering patriot;—the man may openly object to his principles, but can never, with juſtice, tell him, "you are an inſiduous apoſtate." If he has fallen, it is under a conviction that he has acted right, and therefore the pity of every good man muſt be his conſolation *.

Let us therefore cheriſh the pleaſing proſpect, though perhaps the period is remote, when the diſtinctions of party ſhall ceaſe to bias the intelligent mind; when learning ſhall be admired, and virtue be reſpected in every condition of man; then ſhall our riſing youth be taught to hail the genius of a GERRALD, as we now hail the torrent of ſolar light, which, burſting from the heavens, diſperſe the clouds, that have too long obſcured the face of day.

* If a man judges to the beſt of his underſtanding he cannot be culpable, though he may be wrong.—"Angels can do no more."——*Mr. Dornford a juryman's Defence.*

A correct Copy of the Letter ſent by Mr. GERRALD *to Mr.* DUNDAS, *in January*, 1794.

HENRY DUNDAS,

I TAKE my departure for Edinburgh to-morrow evening;—not for the purpoſe of taking my trial (for trial implies candid examination); but, *as you well know*, for the purpoſe of receiving my ſentence of tranſportation for fourteen years. As *you* ſend to the things called, and in one ſenſe juſtly called, the *criminal* Judges of Scotland, the ſentences which they are to pronounce in all caſes of ſtate proſecution, you may as well make me the bearer of your mandates.—I ſhall punctually tranſmit them, and, what may perhaps ſurpriſe a man of your caſt, though I make the promiſe, ſhall faithfully keep it. The people of Perth, among whom I ſtaid ſome time, are my friends;—for they are the friends of every man who is a friend to his country, and the enemies of none but thoſe who plunder it. Joſeph Gerrald was well received at Perth; Henry Dundas, as you well know, was compelled to quit it, in order to avoid the vengeance of the people.

I was taken out of my bed in the city of Edinburgh, in December laſt, at an early hour of the morning, by five men with clubs in their hands, whoſe

whoſe practices induced me to think, that they were not the officers, but the violators of juſtice. I was dragged out by them without the production of any warrant, though I repeatedly demanded to ſee it. My papers were forcibly ſeized in the ſame illegal manner, and the ſtolen effects ſoon to be produced in evidence againſt me (by a proceſs that would do honour to the Inquiſition), are now in the poſſeſſion of men who owe their ſituations to your patronage.—I now, as an Engliſhman, in whoſe perſon the ſacred rights of his country have been violated, publickly demand of you, Henry Dundas, Secretary of State, and Member of the city of Edinburgh, to avow your ſanction, or to expreſs your diſapprobation of their proceedings.

In vain will you preſerve a ſullen ſilence, or attempt to ſhroud yourſelf under the fancied importance of your ſtation.—I aſk only for a plain, explicit anſwer to my queſtion; of which, at a future time, you may repent the refuſal. Awful leſſons have been lately read to you, that all greatneſs, not founded on virtue, is only the ſlippery precipice of deſtruction.

When I went to Scotland, I expected perſecution from the Government, and protection from the people. I have met, and do ſtill expect to meet with both. But I truſt, that the period is faſt approaching, when neither legal quibbles nor fur gowns

grows will ſhelter the abuſe of delegated authority, and when the people will know, will feel, and will aſſert, that law is only the means, but that juſtice is the end, and that the SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE IS THE SOVEREIGN LAW. At all events, be aſſured, that the ſeverities of the Scottiſh criminal judicature ſhall be exceeded, if poſſible, by the firmneſs with which I will encounter them.

JOSEPH GERRALD.

FINIS.